

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 002991

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OECD, CIEC, ENRG

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SUBJECT: MEETING OF CIEC GROUP OF 8

REF: OECD PARIS 33997

1. WITH REGARD TO JANUARY 8 MEETING OF EIGHT, FOLLOWING ARE OUR VIEWS ON SPECIFIC SUBJECTS RAISED IN LETTER FROM CANADIAN PERMREP:

A. INTERIM STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS: WE WOULD HOPE TO SEE SECRETARIAT STAFF SELECTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MINIMIZED. TO THE EXTENT THAT INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS DO BECOME NECESSARY, WE FAVOR ACCEPTANCE OF OFFER WE UNDERSTAND FRENCH HAVE MADE TO LOAN TECHNICAL HELP TO CIEC ON REIMBURSABLE BASIS.

B. APPROPRIATE STATUS AND SALARY LEVELS OF SECRETARIAT: IN ORDER UNDERScore TEMPORARY NATURE OF CIEC SECRETARIAT, AND KEEP COSTS DOWN, WE BELIEVE MOST DESIRABLE APPROACH, AND ONE WE SHOULD PUSH HARD TO ACHIEVE, WOULD BE TO HAVE SECRETARIAT STAFF AT PROFESSIONAL LEVEL (8 OR 9 MEMBERS AS DISCUSSED DURING CIEC) SECONDED BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS AT THEIR PRESENT SALARY/ALLOWANCE LEVELS. FRENCH GOVERNMENT COULD CONTINUE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY GUITTON'S SALARY AND BE REIMBURSED BY CIEC; OTHER PROFESSIONALS COULD BE PROVIDED ON SAME BASIS. THIS WOULD AVOID COMPLEX AND TIME-CONSUMING PROCESS OF SETTING UP A FORMAL SALARY STRUCTURE WITH PROVISIONS FOR LEAVE, RETIREMENT, ETC. IT WOULD ALSO AVOID GIVING THE SECRETARIAT AN AURA OF PERMANENCE BY ORGANIZING IT IN THE SAME MANNER AS PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. ALL OTHER SUPPORT STAFF SHOULD BE PROVIDED BY FRENCH GOVERNMENT AS SUBCONTRACTOR FOR CIEC.

C. ALTHOUGH WE STRONGLY PREFER SECONDMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF, WE WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES PROVIDED SECRETARIAT IS PURELY "TECHNICAL", DOES NOT HAVE ANY KIND OF POLICY-MAKING ROLE, IS CLEARLY ESTABLISHED ON A TEMPORARY BASIS AND COST REMAINS REASONABLE.

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D. STATUS OF SECRETARIAT -- THE PROBLEM OF ENDOWING THE ORGANIZATION WITH THE CAPACITY OF A LEGAL PERSON COULD BE MET BY 1) NEGOTIATING A CONVENTION, 2) BY GETTING AN EXISTING LEGAL ENTITY, SUCH AS THE HOST GOVERNMENT, TO ACT AS A "TRUSTEE" AND "LEND" ITS LEGAL PERSONALITY TO CIEC FOR THE PERIOD THE SECRETARIAT WILL EXIST, OR 3) BY ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY AND PROVISIONAL

ORGANIZATION BY MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT PROVIDED THE HOST GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO EXTEND APPROPRIATE STATUS TO SUCH AN ORGANIZATION ON AN EXPEDITED BASIS. THE FIRST OPTION SEEMS IMPRACTICAL AND WOULD ALSO BE CONTRARY TO OUR VIEW THAT WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE THE TEMPORARY NATURE OF CIEC. WE MUCH PREFER THE SECOND OR THIRD OPTIONS WHICH WOULD AVOID A LENGTHY NEGOTIATION OVER A CONVENTION THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE RATIFIED AND WOULD TEND TO IMPLY PERMANENCE. THE THIRD OPTION ALSO AVOIDS OVER-IDENTIFICATION WITH THE HOST COUNTRY AND REQUIRES ONLY A DECISION BY THE CONFERENCE TO ESTABLISH A SECRETARIAT ON A TEMPORARY BASIS AND AGREEMENT BY THE HOST GOVERNMENT TO AFFORD THE SECRETARIAT APPROPRIATE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES. UNDER EITHER OPTION 2 OR 3, PROFESSIONAL LEVEL MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT COULD BE SECONDED BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON A TEMPORARY BASIS.

E. APPOINTMENT OF AN ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:
YOU ALREADY HAVE OUR VIEWS IN STATE 0178; WE ARE ALSO FOLLOWING UP ON PROPOSAL BY UK PERMREP AS REPORTED IN OECD PARIS 0233.

F. APPROPRIATE DATES AND PREPARATIONS FOR A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE: THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE SHOULD MEET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

AFTER THE CO-CHAIRMAN'S MEETING HAS AGREED ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE SECRETARIAT, AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY HAS PREPARED A BUDGET PROPOSAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS DECISION. IN THE MEANTIME, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT THE EIGHT AGREE AMONG THEMSELVES HOW TO APPORTION THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES HALF OF CONFERENCE COSTS. AS DISCUSSED BY ADMINISTRATIVE WORKING GROUP DURING CIEC, CONFIDENTIAL

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ONE OPTION WOULD BE TO DIVIDE COSTS ON THE BASIS OF COMMISSIONS SEATS HELD; ANOTHER POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO ALLOCATE 25 PERCENT OF THE COSTS TO EACH OF THE US, EC AND JAPAN AND DIVIDE THE REMAINING 25 PERCENT AMONG THE 5 ADDITIONAL DC PARTICIPANTS; FINALLY, SOME FORMULA BASED ON GNP PLUS COMMISSION SEATS COULD BE DEvised. WE PREFER THE FIRST OPTION, UNDER WHICH THE US, WITH FOUR OF THE AVAILABLE 20 INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY COMMISSION SEATS, WOULD PAY 20 PERCENT OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES' SHARE OF CIEC COSTS. HOWEVER, WE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT ANOTHER FORMULA, PROVIDED HOWEVER, THAT THE U.S. SHARE DOES NOT EXCEED 25 PERCENT.

G. MEETING OF THE G-8 BEFORE THE JANUARY 26 MEETING:
WE MAY NEED ADDITIONAL MEETINGS OF PERMREPS TO CONSIDER

ISSUES RAISED ON JANUARY 8. AT THIS TIME NO MEETING OF
8 AT OFFICIAL LEVEL APPEARS NECESSARY AS OUR POSITION
ON THE GUIDELINES ISSUE IS CLEAR (I.E. ANY ITEM CAN BE

PUT FORWARD BY EITHER GROUP FOR INCLUSION ON THE LIST
OF SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE COMMISSIONS, BUT
THE COMMISSIONS' WORK PROGRAM AND AGENDA IS TO BE
DETERMINED BY EACH COMMISSION RESPECTIVELY). G-8
DECIDED AT CIEC THAT CONSULTATIONS DURING THE CONFERENCE
CONSTITUTED CONSULTATIONS CALLED FOR IN PARA 6 OF FINAL
COMMUNIQUE AND THAT FURTHER CONSULTATIONS OF TYPE NOW
BEING UNDERTAKEN BY G-19 WOULD NOT BE HELD BY INDUS-
TRIALIZED COUNTRIES. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT
CO-CHAIRMAN'S MEETING SHOULD BE CONFINED TO REVIEW OF
PROCEDURAL PREPARATIONS FOR FIRST MEETINGS OF COMMISS-
SIONS. E.G. ESTABLISHMENT OF SECRETARIAT, POSSIBLY
RECEIVE ADDITIONAL LISTS OF TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION BY
COMMISSIONS ETC. WE BELIEVE, THEREFORE, IT WOULD BE
A TACTICAL ERROR TO HAVE ANY FORMAL G-8 CONSULTATIONS
ON JANUARY 26 MEETING SINCE THIS MIGHT REDUCE OUR
ABILITY TO WITHSTAND G-19 PRESSURES TO DELVE MORE
DEEPLY INTO SUBSTANCE, E.G. GUIDELINES, AGENDA, ETC.
FYI. WE WILL COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER DC CO-CHAIRMEN
AND OTHER MEMBERS OF G-8 THROUGH CAPITALS PRIOR TO
JANUARY 26 MEETING TO CONFIRM THIS UNDERSTANDING OF
THE MEETING'S SCOPE. END FYI.
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2. OTHER BUSINESS.

A. STEPHEN BOSWORTH, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF FUELS AND ENERGY,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WILL CHAIR THE ENERGY COMMISSION FOR
US AND WILL ATTEND JANUARY 26 MEETING IN THAT CAPACITY.
YOU SHOULD SO INFORM THE EC AND JAPANESE DELEGATIONS AND
SEEK NAMES OF THEIR CO-CHAIRMEN.

B. MISSION SHOULD ALSO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH CANADIAN
REPRESENTATIVES WITH RESPECT TO CONSULTATIONS CANADIANS
MAY HAVE WITH VENEZUELAN AND FRENCH ON DEVELOPMENTS IN
WEEKS AHEAD.

C. MISSION, PARTICULARLY THROUGH OFFICERS BACKSTOPPING
COMMISSIONS, AND IN CONSULTATION WITH EMBASSY, SHOULD
DISCRETELY BEGIN ESTABLISHING CONTACTS WITH COMMISSION
REPRESENTATIVES OF KEY LDC COUNTRIES. WE WOULD APPRECIATE
REPORTS ON WORK OF GROUP OF 19 NOW UNDERWAY IN PARIS.

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